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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,523	10/25/2001	Alan R. Cohn	LIUI117961	3906

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EXAMINER

BRAHAN, THOMAS J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3652

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/047,523

Applicant(s)

COHN ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas J. Brahan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112:
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention.
2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

For example:

- a. In claim 1, lines 4 and 5, the limitation "the lift platform being held in a substantially horizontal first position as the lift platform is moved between at least the raised and lowered positions" appears to be inaccurate. As the platform is being raised and lowered it is not held in a single horizontal position. Claims 11 and 15 have the same limitation which has the lift platform held in a single horizontal position.
 - b. In claim 1, line 7, the limitation "the support device supporting one of the first and second lift arm assemblies" does not appear to be accurate as the smaller link (20) does not "support" the larger links (support arm 30a and the balance arm 32b). The use of the term "support" becomes even more of a stretch in lines 7 and 8 of claim 15, which has one of the smaller links as supporting the entire "reciprocating assembly" which would have it as supporting both arm assemblies (26a and 26b) and the torsion tube (27). Claim 11 has a similar limitation in line 7.
3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.
 4. Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12, 15-17, 21 and 22, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nilson. Nilson shows a lift assembly comprising:

(a) first and second attachment arm assemblies (24, 29) extending between a reciprocating platform (20) and a lift platform (26), the lift platform movable between at least a raised position and a lowered position; and

(b) a support device (32) coupled to one of the first and second attachment arm assemblies, the support device supporting one of the first and second attachment arm assemblies (to the same degree that applicants link 20 supports the larger support and balance arms) and maintaining the lift platform in a second plane substantially parallel to the first plane if at least a portion the other of the first and second

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attachment arm assemblies fails (again, as the limitation is best understood, as applicant's support link 20 is designed more to support its own arm assembly than the distant arm assembly; note that the extra link 32 would inherently maintain the integrity of the parallelogram linkage upon failure of some of the parts of an arm assembly).

The intended use of the lift platform, as a wheelchair lift, is not given any patentable weight, as this limitation is found only in the preambles of the claims, and as Nilson has all of the structures recited in the bodies of the claims and could lift wheelchairs. The lift platform of Nilson is held in substantially parallel horizontal planes as the lift platform is moved between at least the raised and lowered positions, as it believed to be applicant's intent with the limitations referring to a single horizontal plane. The support device (32) is a bracket between upper and lower arms (29 and 24; depending upon the position of lift platform 26), as recited in claims 2, 12, and 16. There is a second support device (32) in the form of a second bracket on the other upper and lower arms, as the structural limitations of claim 3 are best correlated with the functional limitation at the end of claim 1. The brackets are located between the ends of the upper and lower arms, as claim 5 is best understood, and as recited in claims 17 and 21.

5. Claims 1-23, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bianchini. Bianchini shows a lift assembly comprising:

(a) first and second attachment arm assemblies (the right and left halves of the support frame shown in figure 1) extending between a reciprocating platform (of the vehicle, note the term reciprocating is broad and reads on back and forth movements) and a lift platform (tray 80), the lift platform movable between at least a raised position and a lowered position, the lift platform being held in a first horizontal plane and substantially parallel horizontal planes as the lift platform is moved between the raised and lowered positions (as this is what is believed to be applicant's intend with the limitation of a single horizontal first plane); and

(b) a support device (catch 88) coupled to one of the first and second attachment arm assemblies (note the term coupled is broad and does not require direct attachment; also the support device is coupled to the arm assemblies when the platform is locked in the raised position), the support device supporting one of the first and second attachment arm assemblies and maintaining the lift platform in a second plane substantially parallel to the first plane if at least a portion the other of the first and second attachment arm assemblies fails.

The intended use of the lift platform, as a wheelchair lift, is not given any patentable weight, as this limitation is found only in the preambles of the claims, and as Bianchini has all of the structures recited in the bodies of the claims, and could lift a wheelchair. Note also that these type of lifts are used to lift and carry folded wheelchairs. The support device (88) is a bracket extending between an upper arm (16; note that no parallelogram feature is specified in the claims for these arms) and a lower arm (50), as recited in claims 2, 12, 16, and 22. There are two brackets (88), as recited in claims 3 and 17. The support

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device is located at the upper end area of the arm attachment assemblies, as to be considered as at one of their ends, as recited in claims 4, 8 and 18. As the support device is not at the exact end of the arm attachment assemblies, it can also be considered as between the ends, as recited in claims 5, and 10. The support device comprises a U-shaped first bracket (88) pinned to an upper arm (16) of the arm attachment assembly, as recited in claims 6, 13, 19 and 23. The support device comprises two U-shaped brackets (88) each pinned to an upper arm (16) of an arm attachment assembly, as recited in claims 7 and 20. The support device (88) is attached to both the upper arms (16) and the lower arms (50), indirectly attached at all times, or directly attached when the catch locks the platform in the raised position, as recited in claim 10.

6. Claims 1, 2, 6, 11-16, 18, 19, and 21-23, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Klinkenberg. Klinkenberg shows a lift assembly comprising: (a) first and second attachment arm assemblies (21) extending between a reciprocating platform (20; the whole vehicle reciprocates as broadly recited in claims) and a lift platform (54), the lift platform movable between at least a raised position and a lowered position; and (b) a support device (lock 80) coupled to one of the first and second attachment arm assemblies, the support device supporting one of the first and second attachment arm assemblies and maintaining the lift platform in a second plane substantially parallel to the first plane(s) if at least a portion the other of the first and second attachment arm assemblies fails (the lift cylinder; note that the claims do not specify when the failure may occur). The intended use of the lift platform, as a wheelchair lift, is not given any patentable weight, as this limitation is found only in the preambles of the claims, and as Klinkenberg has all of the structures recited in the bodies of the claims. The lift platform of Klinkenberg is held in substantially parallel horizontal planes as the lift platform is moved between at least the raised and lowered positions, as it believed to be applicant's intent with the limitations referring to a single horizontal plane. The support device (80) is a bracket between upper and lower arms (26 and 28), as recited in claims 2, 12, 16, and 21. The support device has a hook portion, as to comprise a U-shaped bracket pinned to an upper arm of, as recited in claims 6, 13, 19 and 23. The support device (lock 80) has a lower portion at the end of the attachment arm assemblies, see figure 6, as recited in claims 14 and 18.

7. Claims 1-19 and 21-23, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Garate. Garate shows a lift assembly comprising (a) first and second attachment arm assemblies (32, 33) extending between a reciprocating platform (10 and 11; the whole vehicle reciprocates as broadly recited in claims) and a lift platform (50), the lift platform movable between at least a raised position and a lowered position, and (b) a support device (120) coupled to one of the first and second attachment arm assemblies, the support device supporting one of the first and second attachment arm assemblies and maintaining the lift platform in a second plane substantially parallel to the first plane(s) if

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at least a portion the other of the first and second attachment arm assemblies fails. The intended use of the lift platform, as a wheelchair lift, is not given any patentable weight, as this limitation is found only in the preambles of the claims, and as Garate has all of the structures recited in the bodies of the claims. The lift platform of Garate is held in substantially parallel horizontal planes as the lift platform is moved between at least the raised and lowered positions. The support device (120) is a bracket extending between an upper arm (32 and 33) and lower arms (85 and 86; note that the arms are never claimed as part of parallelogram linkage), as recited in claims 2, 9, 12 and 16. There are two such brackets (121 and 122) as recited in claims 3 and 17. The support device is far enough off of the center of the upper arms (32 and 33) as to be at the ends of the attachment arms, as recited in claims 4, 8, 14, 18 and 22. The support device is not at the extreme ends of lower attachment arms (85 and 86), as to be considered as between the ends, as recited in claims 5 and 10. The support device (120-122) forms a U-shaped bracket pinned to lower arms (85, 86), as recited in claims 6, 7, 13, 19 and 23.

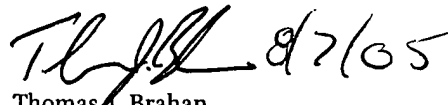
8. Applicant argues in the amendment filed May 20, 2005 that the Nilson reference teaches stiffening the various elements of the lift not maintaining the platform in a horizontal position. However the geometry of link (32) would maintain the platform in its horizontal position, depending upon which link fails. This is the same as applicant's device which is claimed as providing backup support if the correct link fails. Applicant argues that the catches (88) of Bianchini do not extend between a portion of the of the first and second arm assemblies and are for maintaining the platform in a locked raised, position, not a substantially horizontal position. However the claims do not recite any structure for the first and second arm assemblies, as to have vertical support bars (16) as forming part of the arm assemblies, as listed in the rejection, the bars (16) form the upper arms. And, as shown in figure 4, the locked position is a substantially horizontal position. Applicant argues that Klinkenberg and Garate do not include support members for the arms. However the claims only require that the lifting devices, under at least one given circumstance, i.e. in one position and with one type of part failure, will have the support device maintaining the platform in a horizontal position. The locking supports of the various lifts will hold the platforms in place when a part, such as a bolt or pin, fails. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. An inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should

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be directed to Thomas J. Brahan whose telephone number is (571) 272-6921. The examiner's supervisor, Ms. Eileen Lillis, can be reached at (571) 272-6928. The fax number for all patent applications is (703) 872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Questions regarding access to the Private PAIR system, should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Brahan and the date 8/7/05.

Thomas J. Brahan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3652

Approved TDB
07/05



1/5

Fig. 1.

